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ABSTRACT

This unit of study provides teaching guidelines and student material intended for use in high school home economics or consumer education programs. The objective of this capsule is to help students determine whether or not a large or medium to large wedding will be worth the cost. Seven sections involve students in gathering information from a clergyman, priest, judge, photographers, and florists: comparing prices of wedding dresses and other participants' clothing: planning timing, invitations, and announcements: investigating various types of parties relating to weddings: and considering the cost of incidentals. Students are asked to compile their findings in a booklet, folder, or slides and tapes. Activities suggested for information gathering are field trips, making questionnaires, telephone interviewing, comparing prices from newspapers and magazines, and interviewing people who have recently planned a wedding. The teacher's guide provides an introduction, objectives, additional activities, and the test. (CK)

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SO 012 772

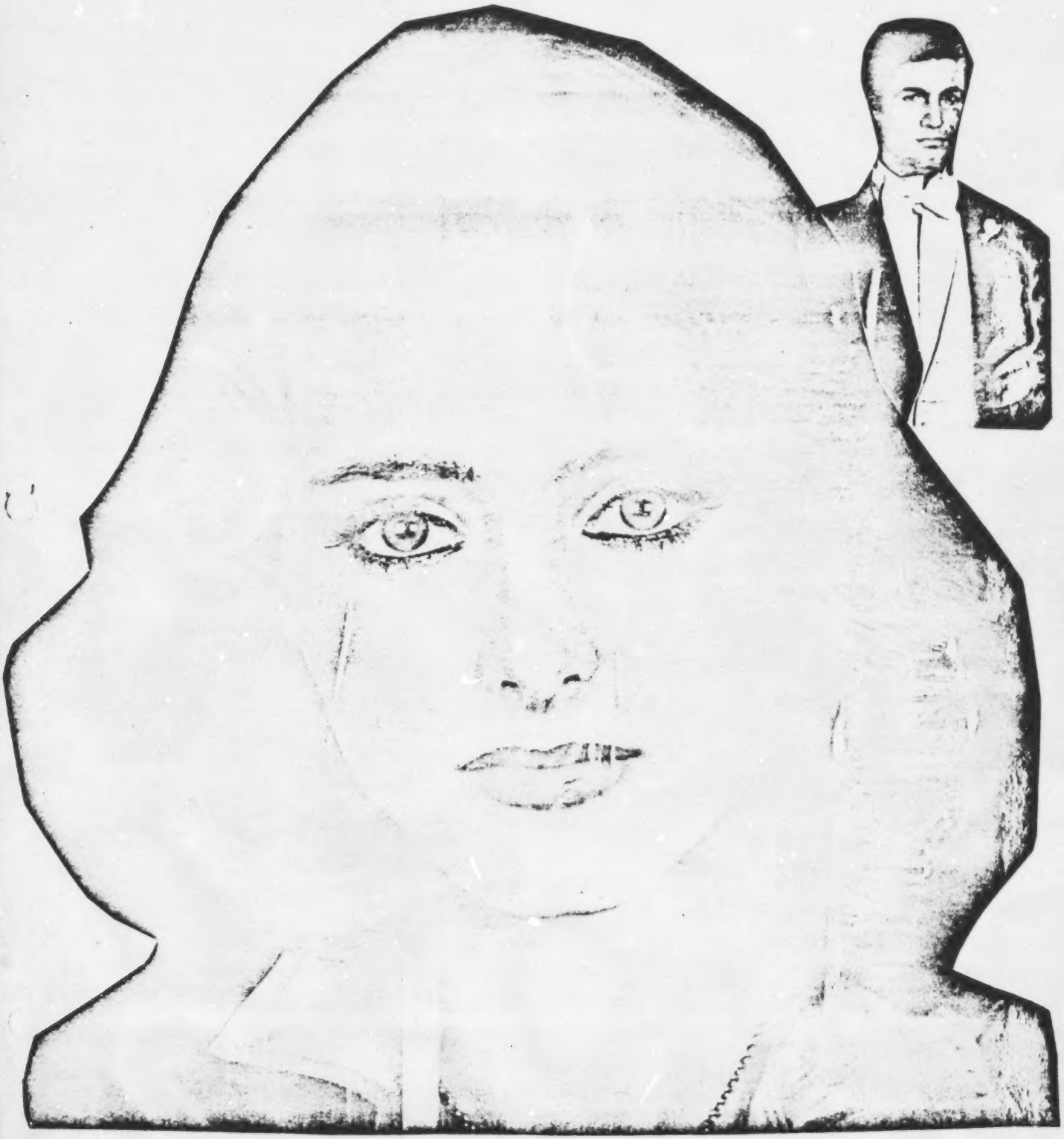
SO YOU WANT A WEDDING?

by:
Sarah McMillin

SO YOU WANT A WEDDING?

ARE YOU FACING A DIFFICULT CHOICE?

COUNT THE COST!



SO YOU WANT A WEDDING?

INTRODUCTION

So you are planning to get married? Well, someday anyway! This capsule is going to help you decide the how's of your marriage ceremony based only on cost, if that is possible! So put all the pre-conceived notions out of your head about sentiment, Grandma's wedding dress, and what your friends are doing. Examine the issue through this capsule as if it were someone else getting married and determine if the cost of a large or medium to large wedding will be worth the memories. You may be pleasantly surprised if you choose either direction!

Are you ready to begin on the adventure? If so, move along to the next page!

The best way to begin

Step 1. . .

Right now the first thing to do is take the following wedding I.Q. to check how much you already know about the cost of marriage ceremonies, large or small and the "how" of getting the decision made! There will be a few questions geared to just what to do to get started in your decision making process. If you answer all the questions as the author of this capsule intended you to answer them, you may just be "ahead of the game of marriage planning" and just want to read the capsule and carry out a few of the fun activities anyway.

If you do not answer many of the questions as the key page indicates, you will need to do an intensive study including most of the activities of this capsule to really make up your mind about whether or not to plan a medium or large wedding ceremony for yourself! YOU BE THE JUDGE! Remember, fellows, you may be paying expenses for part of the wedding.....so this is not for strictly girls!

HERE GOES THE I.Q. . . . . .

MARRIAGE CEREMONY I.Q.

1. Whom do you consult first when planning a marriage ceremony?

   a. Florist
   b. Clergyman/Judge
   c. Photographer
   d. Stationery Store/Printers

2. The average (small to medium) wedding ceremony costs which of the following?

   a. $150.00
   b. $1500.00
   c. $2500.00
   d. $500.00

3. The greatest expense in most marriage ceremonies is probably which of the following?

   a. Flowers
   b. Photographs
   c. Clergyman/Judge
   d. Reception

4. A reception, rehearsal dinner, breakfast, or other entertainment for guests and wedding party is:

   a. Essential to a small wedding
   b. Optional for any wedding
   c. Essential to a large wedding
   d. Not necessary and outdated

5. Buying an outfit for "after the wedding" would be:

   a. An expense only in a large wedding
   b. An expense for any type of wedding
   c. Optional for any type of wedding
   d. Unnecessary

6. Expenses of a wedding ceremony are:

   a. Solely the obligation of the bride and family
   b. Shared by the bride and groom and/or families
   c. Solely the obligation of the groom and family
   d. Don't know the answer to this one

7. A medium or large wedding ceremony should have as a part:

   a. Invitations
   b. Announcements
   c. Letters
   d. Notes

MARRIAGE CEREMONY I.Q. (continued)

8. A honeymoon is:

   a. Optional expense
   b. Essential expense
   c. Unnecessary expense
   d. Illegal

9. Flowers may be:

   a. Purchased from a florist
   b. Picked from the back yard
   c. Picked from the front yard
   d. Not used in a wedding usually

10. Are you tired of these questions?

   a. Yes
   b. No, I don't know much
   c. It's really been a drag answering these
   d. I have a lot to learn

TO THE STUDENT. . .

YOU MAY DECIDE TO COMPILE YOUR FINDINGS FOR THIS CAPSULE IN ANY NUMBER OF WAYS. . . THE FOLLOWING ARE JUST SUGGESTIONS. . . . .

1. Make an illustrated booklet which describes each of your activities and information. This booklet could be in a form which other students might like to read.

2. Make a folder with a page devoted to diary type reporting of your activities, trips, etc.

3. Actually outline a plan for a small or large wedding and justify your reasoning for your choice.

4. Since most of the activities involve adventuresome trips, keep a travel log with slides and tape presentation.

5. Use your IMAGINATION AND CREATIVITY....do your own thing to report your findings.

TO THE STUDENT. . .

AFTER YOU HAVE DECIDED HOW TO COMPILE YOUR FINDINGS. . . .

YOU HAVE SOME MORE DECISIONS TO MAKE. . .

THE ACTIVITIES THAT ARE BEST ARE PROBABLY GOING "STRAIGHT TO THE HORSE'S MOUTH" OR FIELD TRIPS TO GATHER THE INFORMATION. . . .

HOWEVER. . . IF YOU CAN'T MAKE TRIPS EVERYWHERE TO GATHER THE DATA. . .

THERE ARE OTHER METHODS YOU CAN USE. . . YOUR TEACHER WILL BE ABLE TO SUGGEST SOME AND OTHERS ARE LISTED AS ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITIES. . .

FOR EXAMPLE:

1. Develop a questionnaire to send to clergymen, flower shops, or bridal departments of stores. In other words, do an interview on paper.
2. Use the telephone. . . remember to be polite. . .people are busy with others sometimes and cannot spend much time on the phone!
3. Study newspapers and compare prices on items needed to complete a small or large wedding plan. Magazines are great, also!
4. Interview persons "around town" who have recently been involved in wedding planning.
5. If you are able to make the trips suggested, have an interview form or questionnaire available so you won't forget the precious information before you have a chance to compile it in the manner of your choice.

GOOD LUCK! REMEMBER TO BE POLITE AND THANK THOSE WHO HELP YOU! NOTES OF THANKS ARE IN ORDER!

In the beginning...

EXPERIENCE # 1

1. Build an interview form or questionnaire to be used throughout the capsule. It may need to be revised for each experience; however, the basics will be much the same. Show it to your teacher before you duplicate it or move on to the next activity.
2. Go to a clergyman or priest (almost every town has one or two) and discuss costs of church rental, custodial services, clergy fees, etc. Remember to make an appointment! Interview with your form and ask for brochures if any are available. Sometimes a church secretary can answer many questions! Also, find out how much advance notice is needed to have a wedding scheduled.

3. Make an appointment with a district judge to discuss fees involved in a "court" type wedding. If you can't visit with a judge, go to the marriage license bureau of your county courthouse. They can give you a list of fees. While you are there, inquire about blood tests, marriage license fees, and incidentals connected with any marriage.

ALTERNATIVES. . .

1. Write to a clergyman or to your local courthouse. Send the specific list of questions and ask for brochures. Use your interview form or questionnaire!

PUT YOUR FINDINGS FROM THESE ACTIVITIES IN THE TYPE OF REPORTING FORM YOU HAVE CHOSEN! DON'T FORGET TO DO THIS AS YOU PROCEED THROUGH THE CAPSULE. IT'S MUCH EASIER THAN DOING IT LATER!

IF YOU ARE NOT ALREADY PANIC STRICKEN.....MOVE ON ⟶

EXPERIENCE # 2

1. Visit a professional photographer - get his/her brochure on prices. Check all album prices!
2. Check cost of film for amatuer photographer and his/her service charge. (Perhaps a friend would charge nothing.)
3. Inquire about family moving-making costs.
4. Make a price/cost comparison study.

GET YOUR PHOTOGRAPH ACT TOGETHER AND ADD IT TO YOUR FINDINGS REPORT. . .

ARE YOU BEGINNING TO GET A "PICTURE" OF THE KINDS OF COSTS INVOLVED IN WEDDINGS? PARDON THE PUN!

TO THE STUDENT. . .

DID YOU THINK YOU WERE GOING TO COMPLETE THIS CAPSULE IN FOUR TO SIX HOURS?

SURPRISE!

SURPRISE!

SURPRISE!

IF YOU HAVEN'T RUN OUT OF GAS MONEY FOR EXCURSION TRIPS .....

MOVE AHEAD. . . . .

HOPE IT WILL BE WORTH YOUR TIME.. . .

AND EFFORT. . .

VERY IMPORTANT!

IF, UP TO THIS POINT, YOU HAVE ONLY BEEN DOING THE ACTIVITIES LISTED...

S T O P!

DO SOME READING!

HERE'S A BRIEF LIST OF BOOKS CONTAINED IN THE CAPSULE BOX!

Follett Barbara Lee. CHECK LIST FOR A PERFECT WEDDING

Gray, Winifred. YOU AND YOUR WEDDING

Editors of BRIDE'S. BRIDE'S BOOK OF ETIQUETTE

BRIDE'S magazine

MODERN BRIDE magazine

Consumer Survival Kit, "What Price Bliss"

VISIT THE LIBRARY...AT SCHOOL....ALSO, PUBLIC

ASK FOR SOME HELP FROM THE LIBRARIAN!

O.K. GOOD STARTERS, BUT THERE ARE LOTS MORE...FIND SOME ONE YOUR OWN....THEN MOVE AHEAD!

EXPERIENCE # 3. . .

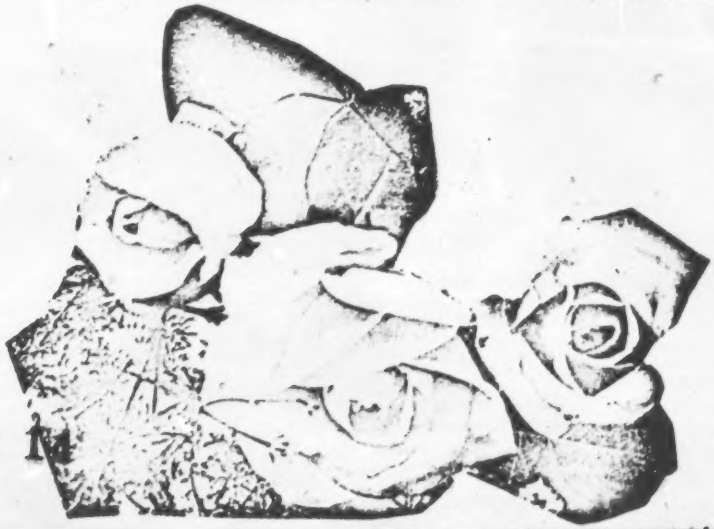
1. Visit a professional florist, if possible. Compare and make a chart of prices for real flowers, silk flowers, dry or straw flowers. Estimate total costs for small or large wedding!
2. Visit a department store. . .do the same.
3. Prepare a display of flowers cut from magazines/newspapers indicating which you would prefer for whom in the wedding, small or large. Photographs of flower arrangements can be a variation of this display.

ALTERNATIVES. . .

1. Call a florist... ask for brochures to be sent through the mail.
2. Draw your own display of flowers which you would use in a wedding.
3. Prepare sample bouquets from inexpensive straw flowers or artificial flowers. (IF YOU ARE CREATIVE) How about paper flowers?
4. Make yourself create a plan for wedding flowers USING ONLY YARD FLOWERS AND HOME GROWN IVY. Can you do it? You may save a bundle!
5. Design a creative activity concerning wedding flowers!

ADD YOUR FINDINGS ABOUT FLOWERS TO YOUR COLLECTION OF INFORMATION! DON'T FORGET FLOWERS AND CLOTHING MUST COORDINATE!

DO YOU HAVE COLD FEET, YET? IF NOT, PROCEED TO NEXT PAGE. .



EXPERIENCE # 4. . .

1. Consider the aspects of purchasing a wedding dress. Visit dress (bridal) shops, if possible. Price formal and informal bridal attire. Don't forget attendants; for example, bridesmaids.
2. Visit or consult by phone with a dressmaker concerning costs of hand made dresses for bride and attendants. One close source of information is Rosie Eads in Atchison.
3. Consider costs for either rental or purchase of male participants' clothing.
4. Go to fabric shops for comparison prices for both male and female wedding participants. Make comparisons in both formal and informal patterns and materials.
5. CHART YOUR FINDINGS!
6. Design a plan for your wedding clothing, both formal and informal.

ALTERNATIVES. . .

1. Phone consultations will yield results, but not as good as visits.
2. Catalogs are a good source of price lists. Make them recent catalogs, since prices change rapidly.
3. Design a plan for your wedding clothing, using only a catalog.

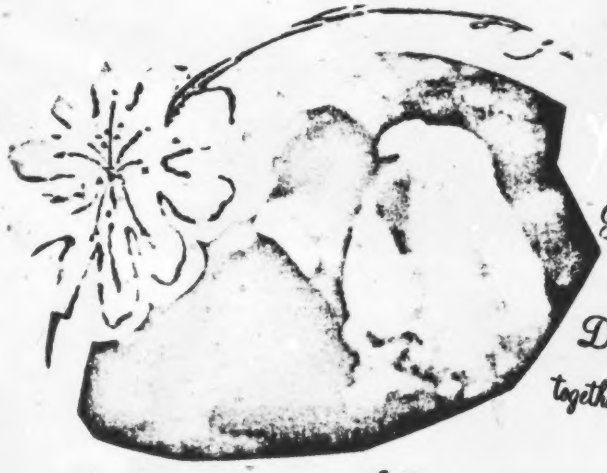
ADD YOUR CHART ABOUT CLOTHING TO YOUR COLLECTION OF INFORMATION! BRIDAL MAGAZINES MAY BE INCLUDED IN YOUR INFORMATION. BE SURE TO MAKE COMPARISONS CLEAR AND CONCISE!

EXPERIENCE # 5. . .

1. The next consideration is to pause to think about time. Timing is critical in all planning for a large or small wedding. Make a schedule chart for planning a wedding in three weeks, three months, or whatever suits your fancy; however, decide on a definite time period and chart accordingly. Make it fit a small or large wedding.
2. Invitations or announcements are next! WRITE YOUR OWN INVITATION OR ANNOUNCEMENT. Read the books to find out which is appropriate for the size of the wedding. DO AT LEAST THREE FOR A SMALL AND THREE FOR A LARGE WEDDING. Samples are given as part of this capsule. Creativity is a key! You are not bound by years of custom! Use fictitious names and your own imagination! Liven them up a little!
3. Visit a printers and an office supply shop, if possible.

ALTERNATIVES. . .

1. Get your materials from the book included in this capsule.
2. Again, use the telephone. American Printing and Dix Office Supply in Leavenworth are two good resources!
3. Wedding programs are quite common; develop one for a formal wedding.



EXPERIENCE # 6. . .

1. Now you are ready for party plans! This may mean a reception, rehearsal dinner, wedding breakfast, or any type of activity to celebrate your wedding. Remember, even the smallest of wedding usually calls for a celebration of some type! Start making plans for each type of celebration.
2. Are you ready for the visits or phone calls? Yes, that's next. Any type of celebration costs money, but careful planning can help. Call or visit several eating establishments, including motels, restaurants, and/or private clubs for estimates of costs of the above mentioned parties. List approximate prices for use of halls, restaurants, etc. for the different functions.
3. Check with caterers and bakeries for prices for food for the above occasions. Make careful comparison lists.
4. Create a bulletin board giving the prices you have found with pictures or illustrations. Give some conclusion of what would be your choice on the bulletin board.

ALTERNATIVES. . .

1. There are numerous alternatives to the bulletin board approach. How about a three dimensional model of a reception table, hall, etc.? Or how about making a model of a wedding breakfast with placecards and all the trimmings? Be sure to indicate complete prices and separate prices that compose that complete price.
2. Prepare a real table with cardboard set-ups for a reception, breakfast, or rehearsal dinner.
3. Placecard designs, invitations, and other incidentals can be created by you are part of alternatives.
4. How about planning a party at home? Tell how you would do it and illustrate floorplan.

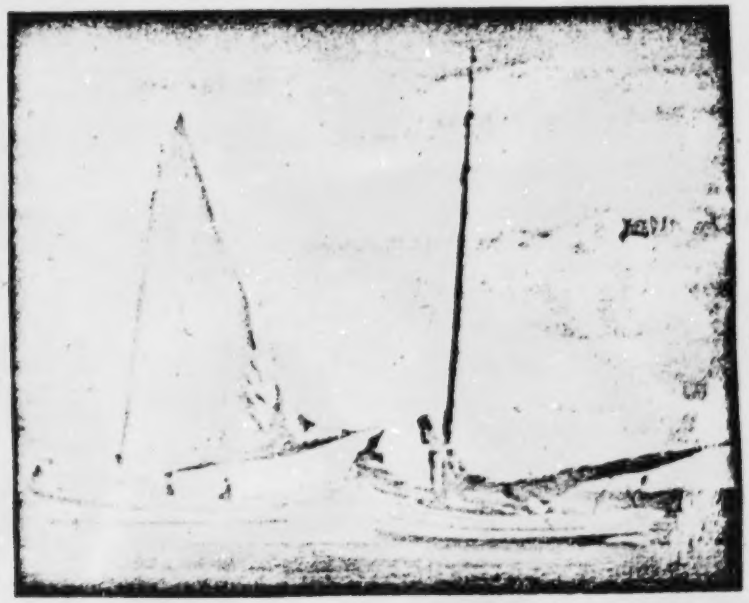
EXPERIENCE # 7. . .

1. INCIDENTALS are all those things that haven't been mentioned yet in this capsule. They are such things as rings, gifts for attendants, and HONEYMOON PLANS. Wow...you thought you were finished, didn't you?
2. Make plans for these incidentals and as many others as you can think of in whatever manner you wish, but be sure to make them fit your over-all project which is a plan for both a small and a large wedding.

   REPORT THEM IN SOME MANNER IN YOUR REPORT.
3. If you are lucky, you might get a travel agency to plan a whole honeymoon for you just for this project and for naming them in the project. Try it! A jeweler might be very willing to give you a long list of comparisons on rings and gifts, as well as their prices.

ALTERNATIVES. . .

ALTERNATIVES SIMPLY NEVER END ON THIS ONE. . . USE YOUR OWN CREATIVITY!



WRAPPING IT UP. . .

Now that you have done all the work for this capsule, doesn't that pre-test you took sound a little ridiculous? It is! But you have discovered how much work it is even to plan a small wedding, so you have some REAL ANSWERS. Culmination activities for this capsule are as follows:

1. Be ready to present your compilation of findings for this capsule in the manner you chose at the beginning. This must be a tangible result based report, but the choice of the reporting is still yours. Your teacher will carefully consider each activity you have done, but those activities must be specifically detailed in your compilation.
2. In addition to what you have already completed, write an article for the local newspaper describing both the small wedding and the large wedding you researched. Cost, of course, will not be mentioned, but your teacher will be able to measure cost by your write-up based on your findings report.
3. One last step... and you are finished. Please complete the post-test, which is a bit more realistic than the pre-test and should be based on exactly what you determined in your findings.

SO YOU WANT A WEDDING?

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Introduction

This capsule is designed to help young persons (both girls and boys) determine whether or not a medium to large wedding ceremony is worth the cost. Therefore, the following objectives are based solely on monetary values, as much as possible.

Over-all Goal:

The student will discover whether or not a wedding (large or small) is financially practical.

Objectives:

1. Discover costs of small wedding.
2. Discover costs of large wedding.
3. Decide a course of action.

There are many activities listed to help determine whether or not the young person will decide for or against the large wedding. The capsule is easy to follow; materials are readily available, and several of the books mentioned are contained in the box which goes with the capsule. Any teacher can allow the student to follow the capsule in a self-study fashion with checks along the way. A pre-test, called the wedding I.Q. can be given at the end of the capsule, also. However, the pre-test at the end will only be for fun, because your student should be much better informed. The real post test is included in the capsule and is based purely on objective #3, decision-making.

Some activities which the teacher may wish to create on his/her own could be as follows:

1. Cross-word puzzles
2. Word searches
3. Tapes for students who cannot read well
4. "Together" type field trips with student/students

OBJECTIVES I and II

THE STUDENT WILL DETERMINE ACTUAL COSTS OF THE FOLLOWING PLANNING, FIRST FOR A SMALL WEDDING AND THEN FOR A LARGE WEDDING.

A. Church/court and ministerial/judge

B. Photographer

C. Flowers

D. Clothing

E. Invitation/announcement

F. Reception

G. Rehearsal dinner/breakfast

H. Incidentals

YOU ARE NOW READY TO EMBARK ON SOME INTERESTING EXPERIENCES. . . . . .

POST TEST WEDDING I.Q. (More than one answer is acceptable)

1. What type of wedding did you choose?

   a. Small
   b. Large

2. Why did you make the choice?

   a. Financial reasons
   b. Time factor
   c. Influence of peers (friends)
   d. Influence of teacher

3. What will your choice of wedding cost?

   a. $150.00
   b. $1500.00
   c. $2500.00
   d. $500.00

4. Through your reading, did you decide that the expenses of a wedding ceremony are:

   a. Solely the obligation of the bride and family
   b. Shared by the bride and groom and/or families
   c. Solely the obligation of the groom and family
   d. A decision made by the bride and groom

5. Did the experiences or activities you did make you:

   a. Critical of wedding costs
   b. Give you an acceptance of costs
   c. Feel you would never want a large ceremony
   d. Feel wedding planning is a "rip-off"

6. Which one of the following best expresses your feelings toward the amount you learned?

   a. Much more about wedding costs
   b. Nothing more than I already knew
   c. Like I really want to learn more before I <u>really</u> plan one
   d. I'd like to elope

7. Did the activities you experienced make you feel any of the following?

   a. Weddings are a lot more than costs
   b. Weddings are well worth the money
   c. Weddings are not much fun
   d. I feel prepared to plan now

8. How would you decide now?

   a. I would do the capsule again
   b. I would not do the capsule again
   c. Others should try the capsule